FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1985

Iran

The authorities have arrested a number of people, executing some of them, for their involvement in recent bombings and assassinations inside Iran, the information minister announced at a press conference reported by IRNA. Those arrested included two "agents of the Iraqi intelligence service" who planted a bomb at a 15 March Friday sermon in Tehran, and several Mojahedin-e Khalq members involved in a number of attacks. He also said the Information Ministry has identified two men responsible for the 12 May car-bomb in Tehran, who remain at large.

Turkey's Relations With Iraq, Iran

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by AFP denied that Turkey is preparing to launch a joint military offensive with Iraq against Kurdish separatists based in northern Iraq. The denial followed a 13 May JANA report that Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi had sent an envoy to Ankara to verify information about such an offensive received from Iraqi Kurdish leader Idris al-Barzani.

Syria

Six men were executed 14 May on charges of spying for Israel, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Three citizens were publicly hanged while three military men were executed by firing squad. Monitored Syrian media did not mention the executions.

Lebanon

Gunmen in West Beirut kidnapped the UNRWA deputy director general 15 May, Voice of Lebanon radio announced.

DRA

Soviet troops massacred about 1,000 civilians in Laghman Province last March, according to Western diplomats cited by AFP. Meanwhile, a civil aviation official announced that the government plans to improve Herat and Qandahar civilian airports and to extend Kabul International Airport, BAKHTAR reported.

Pakistan

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq stated that $1.5 billion is required for construction of a nuclear reactor, noting nuclear technology would be used for "peaceful purposes," Karachi radio reported.

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Joint Communique With Syria Released in Damascus

LD142206 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] The DRA and the Syrian Arab Republic condemn the policy of separate accords against the national interests of the Arab people. According to a TASS report, in a joint communique that has been released in Damascus, both sides have expressed support for reaching a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab land, maintaining the lawful rights of Arab Palestine, and above all their right to self-determination and return to their fatherland and the creation of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the only lawful representative of the people of Palestine. The Afghan-Syrian joint communique has been released at the end of a visit by the DRA party delegation, led by Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the Syrian Arab Republic and at the conclusion of bilateral talks between delegations of the PDPA and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party of Syria.

In the joint communique, Afghanistan and Syria have expressed support for the Soviet Union's initiative on holding a conference on the Middle East under the supervision of the United Nations with the participation of all relevant sides including the PLO. The DRA and the Syrian Arab Republic express full support for the struggle of Lebanese people against the Israeli invaders. They condemn the barbaric activities of Israeli invaders against the inhabitants of the south of Lebanon and the massacres by Zionists in the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip. Syria demands an end to interference by U.S. imperialism and international reaction in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and declares its solidarity with the struggle of the people of Afghanistan under the leadership of the PDPA for freedom and independence and supports the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The Socialist Arab Ba'th Party of Syria highly assesses the gains of the people of Afghanistan in all spheres and also the stance of the PDPA, the Government of the DRA, and the people of Afghanistan regarding the rightful Arab cause.

The joint communique states that the PDPA stresses the main and leading role by Syria in confrontation against the conspiracies of imperialism, Zionism, and reaction and declares its support for the consistent and principled policy of the Syrian Arab Republic in the Middle East. Both sides have expressed solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America against imperialism, Zionism, and racism for national independence and social progress. The joint communique states that the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe creates danger for the world peace, security, and stability and is against the vital interests of all peoples.

Plans for Air Transportation Development Cited

LD150701 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Kabul, May 14, OANA-BAKHTAR — A regular aerial transport system with equipped airports and qualified personnel are the most indispensable and appropriate method for the transportation of passengers and goods in different parts of the DRA.

This was stated by Na'im Ajmal, general president of the civil aviation of the DRA at a session of the officials of the civil aviation held here today.

He added that the development of domestic air transportation is significant, because Afghanistan has a complicated geographical and topographical situation. A great many parts of the country are mostly mountainous and impassable. Moreover, the transportation of commodities from one part of the country to another in some seasons are extremely difficult and are sometimes impossible. Thus road transportation is time-consuming and is extremely costly as it requires the digging of tunnels and the construction of bridges.

The government of the DRA has drawn up comprehensive plans and programmes for the development of air transportation in the country.

Reviewing the activities of the civil aviation in the country, Na'im Ajmal pointed out that facilities have been provided for 30 thousand regular flights including 400 transit ones in the last Afghan year (ended March 20, 1985). This shows 815 extra flights as compared with the preceding year.

Concrete measures are underway for providing further facilities for the airport of Qandahar and Herat as well as for the extension of Kabul International Airport, Na'im Ajmal concluded.

Price Control Commission Holds First Session

LD150639 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Kabul, May 14, OANA-BAKHTAR — The first session of the Permanent Commission of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the DRA on Pricing and Price Control was held here. Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA Sarwar Mangal said that in the present conditions, the attention being paid to the price stabilization, in fact, means a concern for the betterment of living standard of working people of the country. He added that in the light of the economic policy of the revolutionary party and state, effective measures have already been adopted towards this end.

Among such measures he cited the estabilishment of the state retail sale enterprise in order to set up and expand retail sale stores of commodities of every day use. In order to assist workers and state employees, primary goods are being sold at lower prices though the ration stores. Furthermore, to endure a relative stabilization of prices, essential commodities are sold freely in the markets.

Sarwar Mangal recalled that a worthwhile role in the stabilization of prices was also played by the state-run vegetables cooperations which marketed foodstuff at lower prices and the Afghan poultry cooperation which sells birds meat at low prices.

In order to strengthen the economic bases of peasants, the purchasing prices of cotton and sugar-beet were increased. The

prices of chemical fertilizers and seeds were decreased in the interest of peasants, and agricultural machinery and implement are being put at the disposal of peasants at lower prices.

The state allocates a huge sum of money as subsidy for the ration goods including flour, edible oil, tea, as also for city transport fare, power energy, petroleum products, etc. This plays a major role in preventing the price rise in the country.

The session endorsed the plan of measures for stabilizing the retail sale prices as well as the regulation of the Commission of pricing and price control.

LE MONDE Interviews Resistance Leaders in Paris

PM141039 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 May 85 p 5

[Gerard Viratelle report: "Western Countries Must Maintain Political and Economic Pressure on USSR"]

[Text] Amin Wardak (Wardak Province) and Walid Majruh (Konar Province), two leaders of the internal resistance who have just been received at the State Department in Washington, told us during a stopover in Paris 9 May that the U.S. Administration's decision to grant military and humanitarian aid to the Afghan resistance fighters was a "positive development." But, they pointed out, the promised $280 million in military aid has not yet received approval from Congress.

As for international solidarity with the resistance, they think, "Not much progress is being made; the only people to express their solidarity are the French. The Afghan war must not become a forgotten war" (although they admit that it might last a long time).

"We cannot win it by military pressure alone.... Political and economic pressure on the USSR must be maintained while the resistance, provided it is well armed, exerts military pressure. To achieve this the most important thing is aid to the fighters in the form of arms and munitions." "If the Western world exerted that pressure," they added, "the Soviets would not hold out for 5 days in Afghanistan. However, the United States is selling them grain and other countries are selling them technology!"

As regards the "indirect" diplomatic talks between representatives of Kabul and Islamabad, using the United Nations as an intermediary — which it is planned to resume — "We never see any results" our interlocutors noted with a smile. "As long as the two main protagonists — the Soviets and the Afghan resistance fighters — are not party to the talks, we can expect nothing," they said.

On the other hand, Wardak and Majruh think that the resistance has just taken a step forward following the recent agreement between the two alliances (grouping fundamentalists and moderate nationalists) of the resistance. They have just agreed to adopt a joint approach — military and strategic inside the country and political and diplomatic outside. However, after the failure of previous attempts at union each side is keeping its own character. Is this a step toward the formation of a united liberation front, or even a resistance government?

Excellent Morale

"We do not need a government in exile because we control 90 percent of the country. But we can form a government in the interior. As soon as we have the means of forming one for defending it, we will announce it. The resistance's real strength lies in those who are fighting," the two underground leaders replied. The fighters, they recalled, are forced to coordinate their operations as much as possible in view of the Soviet escalation. "When there is a Soviet offensive in one region, we exert a little more pressure on another."

Are the attempts to "seal" the long border with Pakistan so as to cut off the resistance's supply routes discouraging penetration? "Despite the high losses among the resistance fighters, 400 vehicles enter or leave every day and we have even succeeded in getting tractors to Wardak Province," in the center of the country, they stated.

Are the increase in the Soviet units and the changes in their tactics leading to a change in the balance of forces? "This does not change much for us," Wardak and Majruh said. "It shows instead the relative weakness of the Soviets who have lost many men and much equipment. In addition, the fact that several offensives and reprisal operations have been carried out against the civilian population since Mr Gorbachev came to power would tend to indicate a tougher line. For the past year the Soviets have been carrying out operations simultaneously in several provinces at the same time, and they have been laying ambushes. However, the resistance's experience and combativeness have improved and its morale is excellent."

But our two interlocutors stressed the fact that the resistance is finding fewer and fewer resources on the spot. Thus they intend to discourage civilians from leaving their regions "because that increases the risks for the resistance." It is therefore necessary to "help the population inside the country to stay where they are because they are the resistance. We must help build schools, hospitals, and so forth." However, aid from international and private organizations is still just a "drop in the bucket."

BAKHTAR Comments on Holding Talks With Pakistan

LD150649 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

General Ziaul Haq, the military ruler of Pakistan by refuting direct talks with the Government of the DRA once again revealed its real face of the anti-Afghan political policy.

Undoubtedly, General Ziaul Haq has drawn Pakistan to the adventuristic axis of the US imperialism against the will of the working people of that country.

The military regime not only has brought to the Pakistani people economic crisis but has turned Pakistan into a source of serious threat to peace and security for its neighbours.

The position taken by Zia's government vis-a-vis the neighbouring countries especially the DRA is in collusion with the US

imperialism in the region. Following such an inhuman and anti-peace policy, now the military regime has turned Pakistan into a nucleus of US adventuristic policy.

The people of Pakistan have expressed in the past eight years their strong protest against the policy of the military regime vis-a-vis the DRA and the transformation of Pakistani soil into a springboard of the imperialist interventions against Afghanistan and into an anti-Afghan nest of counter-revolution. But the objections of Pakistani people have been ignored to this effect as in other cases.

This is not the first time that Pakistani regime rejects the holding of a direct talks with the Government of the DRA, because due to its collusion with the US imperialism it is striving in different manners to procrastinate the process of the political solution of the situation (?around) Afghanistan.

The military regime of Islamabad never wants to connive its assigned role as a gendarme of the region in achieving the US strategy the counter-revolution into Afghanistan.

Facts indicate that Pakistan at the behest of the US imperialism and the Chinese hegemonism who have close military contribution with one another in the undeclared war against the DRA and Pakistan is being used as a tool for the continuation of the war. The mission of UN secretary general based on the proposals of May 1985 and August 1981 of the DRA for the political solution of the sitaution around Afghanistan is a confirmation of the positive position and goodwill of the DRA in this effect.

Following a peaceful policy, the Government of the DRA is always ready to hold talks with all the countries particularly with its neighbours. Now it is up to Islamabad regime to give a positive reponse to the logical proposals of the DRA.

The people of Afghanistan firmly believe that the DRA will never retreat the path it has chosen. The national will of the Afghan nation has been declared in the historical Loya Jerga (national assembly) of Afghanistan, held late April.

Diplomats Say 1,000 Killed in Soviet Operation

HK141044 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] Islamabad, May 14 (AFP) — About 1,000 people were killed in one of the biggest civilian massacres carried out by Soviet occupational troops in the Laghman Province in eastern Afghanistan last March, Western diplomats said here today.

The diplomats, quoting reports from Kabul, said here that an "exclusively Soviet" anti-resistance operation involving up to 200 military vehicles completely destroyed a dozen villages in the Qarghah'i District of the province.

The sources said the Soviet "atrocities" caused bitterness among Afghan officials who had wanted Afghan troops to be sent to tame the anti-Marxist resistance.

However, the sources said, the Soviet forces refused in spite of the fact that local leaders who were in Jalalabad preparing for Loya Jerga (the Grand Assembly) of the tribesmen protested against the Soviet plan.

Afghan resistance fighters in Peshawar said last month that more than 350 people died in one Soviet-operation in the area.

However, the Western diplomats said today that "confirmed report" stated that about 1,000 civilians were killed in Qas-e Aziz Khan, Chahar Bagh, Bala Bagh Sabzabad, Mendrawal Haydar Khan, and Pol-e Joghi. Each village lost over one hundred people and that "dead bodies were left lying everywhere".

Residents fled the villages where houses were looted and gutted by the troops. They took shelter in more than 200 tents set up in nearby Surkha Kan, the sources added.

Earlier this year 900 Afghan civilians were said to have died in a massacre in the Kundus area.

According to Western diplomats, resistance activity increased in the Afghan capital Kabul last week. Mujahids fired at least six rockets hitting the wealthy residential areas and official buildings in the eastern part of the city. Details of the losses were not immediately available.

Street fighting was seen near Czech ambassador's residence while shooting outside the Czech Embassy the same evening left one person injured.

Heavy fighting was also reported around Kabul airport resulting in artillery retaliation and use of flares and tracers. There were no details of casualties.

On Friday up to 70 people died in Kabul when a Soviet tank travelling at speed ploughed into a crowded passenger bus, the diplomatic sources said. Two policemen also died in the crash. The tank did not stop.

Sporadic clashes have been reported from the northern Panjsher Valley as rumours continue to circulate saying that guerrilla commander, Ahmed Shah Masud had signed a truce with the Soviet forces.

This could have delayed the new Soviet offensive which had been expected in April.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet Air Base in Qandahar

GF142030 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] According to a report received from mujahidin Muslim sources in Qandahar Province, our mujahidin brothers in a calculated and coordinated operation recently attacked the Soviet airfield in Qandahar several times. Our mujahidin, using light and heavy weapons and rockets destroyed or damaged eight aircraft and several military vehicles. The report added that in this attack several Soviet and Karmal mercenaries were killed while a number were wounded.

Recently Soviet and Karmal troops tried to attack a mujahidin position but was foiled when the mujahidin mined their approach route in Takhar Province. When the enemy force stopped at the minefield, the mujahidin attacked them and destroyed seven enemy tanks. Several Soviet-Karmal mercenaries were also killed or wounded. A number of them were captured by the Islamic fighters.

Another report said that during sporadic fighting in recent days in Paktia Province, the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

Voice of Afghanistan on Recent Rebel Successes

LD122011 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1100 GMT 10 May 85

[Text] Kabul: According to a report from Kabul city, recently the faithful mujahidin intensified their attacks on enemy bases in Kabul city. Some time ago as a result of a bomb explosion in Tor Abbas Khan junction, planted by our fighter brothers, a Soviet general and three of his guards were killed. Similarly, as a result of another explosion in the Shar-e Naw area of Kabul City on 27 Wray [16 April 1985] five Soviet invader forces were killed and 20 were severely wounded. The report adds that on 28 Wray [17 April 1985] at 0900 hours a courageous mujahid knifed and killed a Soviet woman in the market of Shar-e Naw in Kabul city.

Warsaj and Maydan: According to reports reaching us from the center of Warsaj and Maydan, the air and ground forces of the Soviet invaders and of the servant regime have attacked Maydan, Nerkh and (?Jalez) areas in the second half of Wray [early April].

The reports add that the Soviet aggressors during these attacks used for the first time [name indistinct] tanks which are equipped with 152 mm cannons and [name indistinct] surface-to-surface missiles which have a range of 60km. During these attacks, our heroic mujahidin downed a number of enemy helicopters and jet fighters. Also heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy forces in Jalez road. It has been said that in one attack 100 enemy commandos were killed. The report adds that when the enemy forces realized their defeat, they started savage bombing of villages and houses killing a number of our oppressed brothers. We are from God and to him we return.

Herat: According to reports from Herat city, some time ago our self-sacrificing mujahidin during a courageous attack in Herat city [words indistinct] and killed seven Soviet aggressor troops in a hotel and took all their weapons and ammunition as booty.

Nimroz: Our correspondent reports from Nimroz Province that recently a caravan of the Soviet aggressor forces was attacked by the faithful mujadhidin in a [name indistinct] region, destroying a number of enemy transport vehicles and killing a large number of Soviet aggressors.

Fire Exchanged With Pakistani Troops in Jammu

HK150830 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — Indian and Pakistani troops have exchanged fire in a six-hour incident in the Kathua District of the northern Jammu region, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today.

The agency, quoting official reports at Jammu, the summer capital of Kashmir, said Indian troops returned fire last night when Pakistani forces started "unprovoked firing" on Indian positions at Hiranagar sector in Kathua District. There were no reports of casualties, PTI added.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that he had no immediate comment on the incident.

Trouble erupted yesterday evening, when Pakistani troops started digging up defences in the no-man's land, which was objected to by the Indian security forces. Pakistani troops then opened fire without any provocation, PTI said quoting official reports.

The exchange of fire went on for about six hours and small arms were used by both the sides. Intermittent firing continued till this morning, the reports added.

The two states have fought two wars over Kashmir since independence.

Defense Spokesman Denies Report

HK151312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — A Defence Ministry spokesman today denied a report that Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire in the Kathua District of the northern Jammu region.

The spokesman was commenting on an earlier PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) report which said Indian troops returned fire yesterday when Pakistani forces started "unprovoked firing" on Indian positions at Hiranagar sector in Kathua District.

PTI, quoting official reports at Jammu, the winter [as received] capital of Kashmir, said there were no casualties.

The spokesman said Indian troops were holding their usual exercise in the region.

Steps Taken To Curb Extremist Activities Abroad

BK150913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] The government has taken several steps to counter the extremist and secessionist activities of certain sections of persons of Indian origin living abroad. Mostly such persons are in Western Europe and North America. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, who gave this information in the Lok Sabha in a written reply, said that governments in these countries had been requested to bar the entry of extremists while checking the activities of those who are in their countries. They have also been urged to take legal action to curb anti-Indian activities. Our missions abroad are in close touch with mass media and considerable amount of audio-visual and printed publicity material have been distributed.

Mr Khan said there are clear indications that these steps have been effective. He said visa system will be introduced for foreigners who were exempt from this requirement. Our missions have also been asked to scrutinize visa applications strictly.

Further on Weekend Bombings; 'Terrorist' Arrests

BBC on Suspect's Death

BK141308 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 14 May 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] One of the three Sikhs arrested in connection with the series of bomb explosions in India at the weekend has died in police custody. The explosions killed more than 80 people in Delhi and other parts of northern India and the arrest of the man who died and the two other Sikhs has been described by a senior police officer as vital in unraveling the conspiracy behind the bombings. Mark Tully reports from Delhi:

[Begin recording] Twenty-four hours after his arrest, the body of Mohinder Singh was taken to a Delhi hospital. A senior official said that he had died of internal injuries sustained while resisting arrest. A hospital doctor said that he died of brain homorrhage and excessive bleeding. His external injuries included bruising, black eyes, and a wound on the side of the head. The two other Sikhs arrested with him could not stand without support when they appeared in court yesterday.

Delhi's newspapers this morning show photograph of policemen carrying one of them down the court's stairs. On Sunday, Delhi's acting police commissioner described the arrest of the three Sikhs as vital progress toward unraveling the conspiracy behind the bomb explosions. The police found the trunkful of gun powder and tools, which might have been used for making explosive devices, in the house where the three men were arrested.

Meanwhile, officials in Delhi are now working on new legislation which the prime minister wants to introduce in Parliament on Wednesday. The aim is to tighten the laws against terrorism. Parts of Punjab, the Sikh home state, have already been declared terrorist affected areas. [End recording]

Police Raid Houses

HK150700 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 15 May 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — Police have raided houses here and elsewhere in northern India to flush out suspected Sikh militants said to be planning attacks to coincide with the anniver-

sary of the storming of the Sikh Golden Temple, a highly placed police source said today.

The massive search operation, mounted by three federal agencies and the police here and in three northern Indian states, is a government measure to forestall further attacks by Sikh militants, said the source, who asked not to be identified. No official figure for the number of arrests was available.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported from Chandigarh, the capital of the northern state of Punjab, that police there yesterday arrested seven suspects and seized arms from them.

Intelligence sources said yesterday that a wave of bombings in northern India that killed 84 people at the weekend was the beginning of a campaign of violence by Sikh militants, planned to culminate on June 5 and 6.

That is the first anniversary of the storming of the Sikh religion's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar in Punjab. About 650 people, including Sikh militant leaders, were killed when the Indian Army stormed the temple to flush out armed Sikh extremists.

Some of India's 16 million Sikhs are campaigning for greater political autonomy for Punjab. Some militants want a separate Sikh state.

One of the houses searched here belongs to Onkar Singh Thapar, general secretary of the Delhi unit of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

Mr. Thapar said a truckload of policemen descended on his house yesterday and searched it thoroughly. They found nothing incriminating, he said, showing a police statement saying the police left empty-handed.

"I do not want to question government concern for security, but such raids are driving more and more moderate Sikhs to the camp of the militants," said Mr. Thapar, who calls himself a moderate.

Federal agents have been deployed in Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh states — the three provinces where Sikh militants are reported to be active, the sources said. Police said the clampdown had not yet begun in Rajasthan, where week-end bomb blast left two dead.

No fresh violence connected with the Sikh campaign had been reported by early Wednesday.

Fears of more Sikh attacks were expressed in Parliament on Saturday when Home Minister S.B. Chavan said he had reason to believe that the weekend's bombings were not the end of the latest spate of violence.

Meanwhile, *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* newspaper said that the government would soon hand over all anti-terrorist operations to an elite force — the national security guards — to counter the growing threat of terrorism in the country. However, there was no official comment on the report.

THE STATESMAN newspaper said that the government was putting the final touches to stringent new anti-terrorist legislation promised by Mr. Gandhi in Parliament last week.

The definintion of sedition will be extended and the arms act amended to allow suspects to be held for three years instead of six months, the paper said. There was also no official comment on the report.

'Militants' Now Top Sikh Party

HK151034 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Amritsar, India, May 15 (AFP) — There are clear signs that militants in the Akali Dal, who suffered a setback when the Army stormed the Golden Temple here last year, are back in force and eclipsing the moderates in the Sikh political party, analysts said today.

Analysts said the wave of bombings in northern India that killed 84 people at the weekend — blamed by police on Sikh militants — is one indication that the militants are back in the forefront of the campaign by some of India's Sikhs for greater autonomy for the predominantly Sikh state of Punjab.

More evidence of the militants' revival was to be seen at a meeting yesterday called to formalise the takeover of the leadership of the party by Joginder Singh, 83-year-old father of the late militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Eyewitnesses said that at the meeting several hundred of Mr. Joginder Singh's supporters, the majority of them young Sikhs sporting saffron turbans signifying sacrifice, shouted slogans in praise of Mr. Bhindranwale. Joginder Singh packed up his belongings and rode from his village, 70 kms (43 miles) away, to an inn in the Golden Temple complex yesterday, like his son had done three years ago.

His son rose to fame and had assumed effective control of the party before he was killed when the Army stormed the Golden Temple complex, the Sikh religion's holiest shrine. Mr. Bhindranwale was among more that 650 persons killed in the operation to flush out armed extremists.

"The tone adopted by majority of the speakers was a clear sign that militants were now at the forefront of the party," said one analyst who was present at the meeting in the crowded inn.

"The advent of Joginder Singh on the Sikh political scene was welcomed as a sign of hope," he said.

He said that the mood at the meeting, which lasted more than three hours, was one of "hope and determination."

There are signs here that the militants, under Joginder Singh's leadership will openly confront party moderates if the latter challenge their grip on the party, analysts said.

However, events during the past two weeks have indicated that the moderate leadership has already given in to the militants.

Former party chief Harchand Singh Longowal, removed from his post by Joginder Singh on May 1, formally tendered his resignation last week. Nevertheless, his supporters have called a meeting here on May 22 to discuss his resignation, which they claim has not yet been accepted.

Mr. Joginder Singh's takeover of the party came against the backdrop of reports by Indian media from the United States that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had uncovered a Sikh plot to destabilise India.

According to reports by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA and other news agencies, the FBI discovered a plot to murder Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to the United States in June, and to bomb India's nuclear power plants, bridges and government installations.

Last weekend's bombings prompted a nationwide government crackdown on suspected Sikh militants. Domestic news agencies reported that more than 2,000 people were arrested in the aftermath.

Meanwhile, analysts said the wave of violence in north India had contibuted to growing tension between Hindus and Sikhs, who have happily lived together here for centuries.

Hindus, who form 40 per cent of Punjab's total population of 16.6 million, have been the victims of alleged Sikh attacks.

2 More Bombs Found in Haryana

BK141602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] In Haryana, two more bombs have been recovered at Panipat and Karnal. The state government has again appealed to the people not to touch any unclaimed transisters, cameras, tiffin boxes, or toys lying at public places.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the explosions in the state has gone up to 13 with the death of 2 seriously injured persons at the Rohtak medical college hospital this morning.

Operation Launched To Flush Out 'Terrorists'

BK150339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] In Calcutta, an extremist wanted in Delhi and Punjab in connection with a series of crimes has been arrested by the local police. The city police commissioner, Mr P.K. Basu, told newsmen that the arrest was made on a tip off by the Punjab police. Following this, a massive operation has been launched to flush out terrorists who are believed to have sneaked into the eastern areas of the state.

In Rajasthan, seven more suspected terrorists were taken into custody in Alwar District.

8 Suspected Terrorists Arrested in Punjab

BK150323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] In Punjab, one person was injured when three unidentified youths fired at him in a village near Ludhiana last night. The injured has been admitted to hospital.

Meanwhile, police arrested eight more suspected terrorists from Rapar, Jullundur and Amritsar yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession.

Clashes Over Caste Policies Continue in Gujarat

AFP: Talks Break Down

HK150956 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — Security forces shot dead one person and wounded six others as violence between high-caste and low-caste Hindus erupted in the north Indian state of Gujarat, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported today.

Violence broke out in the Gujarat cities of Ahmedabad and Baroda soon after talks between the government and a movement opposed to special privileges for low-caste Hindus broke down yesterday, PTI said. One person was killed when the Army opened fire to quell clashes between high-caste and low-caste Hindus in Ahmedabad.

Later at least six people were wounded when police fired 10 rounds to quell rioters indulging in stone-throwing and arson, PTI said. A number of policemen were injured by stones.

The trouble occurred when harijans or untouchables — members of the lowest caste — joined other low-caste Hindus in a march to high-caste districts.

In Baroda, the police repulsed a 500-strong crowd which attacked a police station with stones, burning rags and bulbs of acid, PTI said.

Gujarat state government policy is to reserve jobs and places in educational institutions for low-caste Hindus to improve their status. Low-caste Hindus make up 56 per cent of the state's population of 34 million.

The death toll in the past three months of caste violence has now reached 105.

Chief Minister on Talks

BK141619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] The first round of talks between the Gujarat government and the leaders of the antireservation agitation in the state ended today without arriving on any decision. The talks lasted over 2 hours.

Commenting on today's talks, the chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, said that no progress could be made because of the adamant attitude of the agitationists. He told newsmen that the demand of the complete removal of reservation for the schedule castes and schedule tribes is not acceptable to the government as this has been enshrined in the Constitution.

Mr Solanki said that the demand for complete abolition of the reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes also cannot be implemented. However, he said, government is ready for negotiations on any adjustment in the percentage of reservation for them in the educational institutions in the state. Both sides have kept their doors open for negotiations, he added.

Meanwhile, the situation in Ahmedabad remained under control today, barring a few incidents of arson, looting, and stone throwing. According to an official release, the police and Army resorted to firing at two places today to disperse violent mobs indulging in stone throwing and arson. Two persons were killed and three injured in the incidents. Twenty-two people have been arrested in connection with today's incidents. Indefinite curfew remained in force in the entire walled city and in all the areas under the five police stations — Gomtipur, Saraspur, (Odhak), Narayanpura, and Kagrachit.

Troops Fire on Looters, 1 Dead

HK150048 Hong Kong AFP in English 0022 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 14 (AFP) — One person was killed and three others were wounded when Army troops opened fire today to quell caste violence in the western city of Ahmedabad, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency reported.

They opened fire twice when rival groups clashed and cases of arson continued despite heavy security and an indefinite curfew, PTI said.

At least 105 people have died in three months of violence in Ahmedabad resulting from upper caste Hindu students' protests against the government policy of reserving jobs and seats in educational institutions for low caste Hindus.

Indefinite Curfew Continues

BK150359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] In Ahmedabad, the situation remained under control last night barring a few incidents. According to the city police control, the police were forced to resort to firing to disperse two groups of violent mobs indulging in stone throwing. Ten rounds were fired in which two persons were injured.

Meanwhile, the Army and police continued strict patrolling throughout the city. Indefinite curfew remains in force in the entire walled city and all the areas in five police stations of Saraspur, Gomtipur, Narayanpura, (Odhak) and Kagrachit. Agency reports say that four persons were injured in Baroda yesterday when police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob indulging in stone throwing and arson.

100 Policemen Injured in Srinagar Demonstration

BK150345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] In Srinagar, small groups of people demonstrating against the writ petition filed in the Calcutta high court turned violent yesterday injuring 100 policemen in stone throwing. Police had to resort to tear gassing to disperse the demonstrators. The towns of Baramula, Sopor and Anantnag observed a bundh [strike] on the second day yesterday. An official press release said the situation is under control. The Calcutta high court has already dismissed the writ petition.

Zia on Construction, Use of Nuclear Reactor

BK141547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 85

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he has been visiting various provinces during the last few days to meet members of the National Assembly and Senate. Addressing a news conference in Multan this afternoon, he said the main aim of his visit is to establish links with the people's representatives so that a strategy can be prepared for the next session of the National Assembly which is fruitful for the country and the people.

Answering a question about producing power from nuclear technology, the president said $1.5 billion is required for constructing a nuclear reactor, although we intend to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Answering another question, the president said that martial law will be lifted as soon as possible. He said he has left this issue to the prime minister and the National Assembly and he will act totally on the advice of the prime minister on this matter. The president said this issue and the matter of revival of political parties could come up for consideration in the next session of the National Assembly in some form or other. The National Assembly will also decide about committing political parties and their activities to a code of conduct. We will act according to the people's opinion.

Junejo Meets With Outgoing Soviet Envoy 14 May

BK141733 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] The outgoing Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Mr V.S. Smirnov, called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Rawalpindi this evening. They discussed various matters relating to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

HAIDAR Cites Polish Envoy on Trade Relations

GF141400 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 8 May 85 p 1

[By the special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Islamabad: 7 May: The Polish envoy in Pakistan said that there are vast possibilities for trade between Pakistan and Poland. He said that the mutual barter agreement is to expire in June and fresh discussions will be held between the two countries. A new barter agreement is expected to be finalized at the end of this year or the beginning of next year. The Polish envoy was speaking at a reception held at his residence to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism.

He said that the trade ties between Pakistan and Poland have been growing and have risen by 8 percent in the past year. He said that the Pakistani commodities in demand in Poland are rice, textiles, cotton, leather, and others. Poland exports road building machinery, steel goods, and construction machinery.

He added that the Polish deputy foreign minister is to visit Pakistan later in the year at the invitation of the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz Ahmad Naik.

Regarding Afghanistan, he said like Pakistan, we also prefer a peaceful solution to the issue and we hope that it will be resolved under the auspices of the United Nations. He said that the Polish Government has awarded scholarships to Pakistani students and journalists. He said that a Polish film festival was to be held in Pakistan later this year.

BANGLADESH

Police Charge Indian With Anti-State Activities

HK150901 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Dhaka, May 15 (AFP) — Bangladesh police have arrested an Indian national on charges of carrying out anti-state activities and possessing phamplets opposing forthcoming upazila (sub-district) elections, press reports said here today.

Police said the arrest came after three men cycling near the Indian border Monday night ran off when challenged by police, dropping a package which exploded as it hit the ground, the press reports said. The package contained two hand grenades, police said. Today's newspapers, quoting an official written statement, said that the Indian, identified only as Mr. Jalimuddin, was arrested in Haripur village near Paba police station in the northwestern Rajshahi District. The other two men escaped. Pamphlets opposing the upazila (sub-district) elections to be held in Bangladesh Thursday and Monday were also recovered from Mr. Jalimuddin. Mr. Jalimuddin said he came from Salinda village in the Murshidabad District of West Bengal, they added.

NEPAL

New Foreign Minister Takes Oath of Office

BK141524 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] In the presence of his majesty the king, Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, as commanded by his majesty the king, administered the oath of office to the minister of foreign affairs, education, and culture, Mr Randhir Subba; Assistant Minister of Communications Mr Satya Man Lama, and Assistant Finance Minister Daman Dhoi Chand at a ceremony at the royal palace this afternoon.

At the ceremony, Raj Sabha standing committee chairman Anurudha Prasad Singh as commanded by his majesty the king administered the oath of ex-officio membership of Raj Sabha to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Culture Randhir Subba.

Chief Justice Nain Bahadur Khatri and Rashtra Panchayat Chairman Mariech Man Singh were present on the occasion.

SRI LANKA

Further on Separatist Attack on Bus Station

Colombo Reports 70 Killed

BK150159 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] At about 0800 yesterday morning terrorists opened fire on the Anuradhapura bus station, killing and injuring many people. The terrorists were disguised as soldiers. After this incident the terrorists drove a bus to old Anuradhapura city, firing indiscriminately on the general public near Sri Maha Bodhi. It is reported that about 70 people were killed and more than a hundred injured.

From Anuradhapura, the terrorists went toward Puttalam. On the way the Tamil terrorists fired on Nochchiyagama police station. One policeman was injured. The security forces have launched an operation to seize the terrorists. A curfew has been imposed in Anuradhapura District.

Death Toll Rises to 120

BK151047 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] The death toll has now risen to 120 in yesterday's incidents at Anuradhapura and its environs. This includes 25 women and 6 children. In addition, 85 people were injured when a group of Tamil terrorists fired at the public at the Anuradhapura bus stand and in the old town. The terrorists, who had traveled in a bus disguised as military personnel, proceeded from the bus stand to the old town in the Sri Maha Bodhi and opened fire on the public who were there. They then went to the Wilpattu game sanctuary where they killed 23 employees of the wildlife conservation department. The government has appealed to the people to remain calm and not to believe rumors because the main objective of this brutal massacre of innocent civilians by the terrorists was to provoke people in other parts of the country.

AFP: Curfew Imposed

HK141146 Hong Kong AFP in English 1131 GMT 14 May 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 14 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists today shot dead more than 70 people in a northern Sri Lanka town, the government said, and a curfew was imposed amid reports of retaliatory attacks against Tamils.

Other official sources said the death toll was at least 80, including five employees of the wildlife department killed as the militants escaped.

Some Tamil shops in the town of Anuradhapura, 206 kilometers (128 miles) northeast of Colombo, were set ablaze in retaliation for today's killings, whose victims included a Buddhist monk, informed sources said. The sources said that one Tamil was also killed, but there was no immediate official confirmation of this, or the arson report.

In a radio broadcast, the State Ministry said 70 people had been killed and some 100 wounded when militant Tamil separatists "disguised as military personnel" sprayed an adjoining bus station and market in Anuradhapura with gunfire.

As they fled through the nearby Wilpattu game sanctuary, the militants also opened fire on people working there, killing eight, official sources said. The sources also said that militants had abducted a game ranger, probably to show them an escape route, as the security forces had launched an operation to catch them dead or alive.

The government imposed a 16-hour curfew on the Anuradhapura District, officials said, but there was no immediate move to impose a curfew in Colombo and elsewhere in Sri Lanka to stop any possible backlash against the Tamils as happened in July 1983.

Nearly 400 people, mostly Tamils, died when riots erupted following an ambush by Tamil militants in which 13 soldiers were killed.

However, the authorities were on the alert to stamp out any attempts at retaliation against Tamils living elsewhere, the sources said.

The State Ministry broadcast reassured people that although the shooting took place near the Sri Maha Bodhi, a sacred tree venerated by Buddhists worldwide, it had not been damaged.

Observers saw this as a move to retain calm among the Buddhists, who form 70 per cent of the 15.4 million Sri Lankan population.

Delhi Report

BK150505 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 100 people have been killed in yesterday's attack by Tamil militants in Anuradhapura town. An agency report has, however, put the death toll at 150. The town has been placed under curfew. The authorities in Colombo say that the militants in Army uniforms came to the town on a bus and opened fire on crowds in the center of the city. They also fired indiscriminately on the crowds in various parts of the city and attacked a police station before heading for a wildlife sanctuary. Police also discovered 18 bodies in the sanctuary, believed to have been killed by the militants while trying to escape. President Jayewardene has had an emergency meeting of his cabinet following the killings. Medical teams have been airlifted to Anuradhapura. Reports say that the attack of the militants appears to be in retaliation for the alleged killing of more than 75 Tamils by the Army near Velvettiturai last week. The Sri Lankan Government has, however, denied the report and said only nine militants died in a gun battle.

Velayati Confers With New French Envoy in Tehran

LD150844 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 15 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday morning met and conferred with the new French charge d'affaires in Tehran, Pierre la France.

During the meeting, Velayati referred to the present power of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world political arena and discussed with the French official the stance of other countries vis-a-vis Iran.

Pointing to the difficulties those countries, specially France, were facing in the region, Velayati noted that with due regard to Iran's strategic position in the region, France made mistakes in its calculations and thus increased its problems.

Counting Iran's multiple conditions for the improvement of ties with France, the foreign minister said that such conditions were a reaction towards the stance of France. But, he stressed, if it is felt that France has taken a positive step towards its relations with Iran, Iran will do the same.

With regard to the principles of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, preservation of independence and expansion of relations with countries throughout the world are the main criteria.

Outlining policies ruling over France's diplomacy, the new charge d'affaires said that mutual understanding can help further stabilisation of friendly relations between the two countries and this is the main condition.

He noted that France was enthusiastically, carefully, and respectfully following Iran's endeavours to announce its stance at international organisations.

Pierre la France served as a staff member of the French Embassy in Algeria in the early years of the Algerian independence. He had the portfolio of second secretary at French Embassy in Tehran in the years 1970-74. He has served mostly in Iran and a number of Arab countries and is fluent in Persian, Arabic and English.

Majlis Deputy on Indian, Turkish Muslims Plight

LD121957 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 12 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Majlis deputy from Tehran, Fakhreddin Hejazi today referred to the uprising of the Muslim ummah throughout the world and described the massacre of Indian Muslims on charges of believing in Islam as a catastrophe.

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis chaired by Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Hejazi called on the authorities of the Islamic Republic not to keep silent towards these crimes.

He warned the Indian Government that in case such crimes continue, the 150 million Muslims of that country would not let such violations be committed against their rights.

He also expressed concern over hostile acts against Muslims in Turkey, saying that the campaign against the Holy Koran was very dangerous.

"Turkey should learn from the fate of Reza Khan in Iran," the deputy said

IRNA Reports Further on Bombing Participants

LD141905 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Terrorists involved in a series of recent bomb explosions and assassinations mainly against ordinary people in Tehran have been identified and some of them have been arrested, of whom a number have been executed for their crimes.

Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri today told reporters that plans to attack the Majlis, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY and another "sensitive" center in Tehran had been foiled.

Reyshahri said the Iraqi intelligence service provided explosives to its agents. Massud Khaderi and Hamid Mokhtari, who planted them in a car at Tehran's Nasser Khosrow Avenue Sunday, martyring at least 15 people.

He said Khaderi and Mokhtari had been identified by the Information Ministry and their photos would be printed in mass circulation papers.

Agents of the Iraqi intelligence service were also responsible for a bomb explosion at Tehran's Friday mass prayers two months ago, the minister said. The agents were arrested in West Azarbayjan and would be soon put on trial.

He said a one meter by three meter mat had been specially packed with explosives and spread two hours before the explosion at the Tehran University prayer ground while President 'Ali Khamene'i was delivering a sermon. About 100 worshippers were either martyred or injured in the blast.

The agents, who were paid 7 million rials (about dlrs 70,000) by Iraq for the operation, were dancing in a nearby flat at the time of the explosion, Reyshahri added.

The information minister also disclosed that those responsible for the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG-7) attack on Tehran's Central Islamic Revolution's Prosecutor's Office, the assassination of two ordinary supporters of the Islamic Republic, and a school in south Tehran earlier this year had been arrested.

Reyshahri said the attackers of the Prosecutor's Office were members of the Paris-based Monafeqin and were also responsible for the assassination of two ordinary people in Tehran who supported the Islamic Republic.

The group of four also intended to attack the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY with an RPG-7 but did not succeed, he said.

Reyshahri added that two other groups with plans to plant a bomb at the Majlis — Iran's legislative body — and in front of a "sensitive" center in Tehran had been arrested recently.

Two members of another Monafeqin cell were killed and another injured in a clash with security forces. They had assassinated tens of ordinary people in various cities and attacked an accounting office of the Mostazafin (oppressed) foundation and a Mosque library in Tehran.

Posters of the ex-shah's last prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar, were among items found from our thieves and gangsters, Reyshahri said. They had exploded a bomb in Tehran's Gisha Street.

Hundreds of packages of TNT, RPG's, Grenades, Colts and a large amount of cartridges have been seized from the groups, some of which were displayed for the reporters.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,103

LD141447 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants Monday attacked a unit of Iraqi troops unloading ammunition in the southern front and set their supplies ablaze, said the Joint Staff Command communique today.

The combatants also bombarded Iraqi fortifications in the area silencing enemy guns, Communique No. 2103 said.

In sporadic confrontations and artillery duels that erupted in the northwestern front, two Iraqi trucks carrying soldiers were hit, and five bunkers destroyed. An Iraqi base that came under Iranian bombardment was reported to have suffered 70 percent damages.

Iranian combatants also killed members of an Iraqi patrol in the area and forced it to flee from the battle scene.

In the Qasr-e Shirin area of the central front the combatants attacked Iraqi units as they were changing their posts killing and wounding an undetermined number of their soldiers.

Heaviest confrontations in the fronts were reported from Nowsud in the western battle scene.

Soviet, Afghan Forces Suffer 'Heavy' Casualties

LD141811 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 14 May 85

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov, May 14, IRNA — Three armoured personnel carriers of the joint Afghan-Soviet forces were blown up with their crews during two simultaneous operations in Farah Province during the past week by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

During these operations, seven Afghan Government soldiers were captured and five Soviet militarymen killed while a very important base of the aggressor forces was demolished. The military base which is located in Regay village, one km from the center of Farah Province was completely destroyed by the heavy fire of the Afghan Muslim combatants.

More than 100 joint Soviet and Afghan forces and a considerable number of tanks and armoured personnel carriers were stationed at the said base. The casualties inflicted at this base are reported to be very heavy.

The Muslim revolutionaries returned to their bases safely after the two operations.